

CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

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**CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION****State Capitol Room 126****Sacramento, CA****Minutes of Meeting****June 10, 2004****COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Thomas Calderon
Diane M. Griffiths
Teresa P. Hughes
Lynn Schenk
Michael R. Yamaki

CMAC STAFF PRESENT

J. Keith Berger, Executive Director
Enid Barnes
Theresa Bueno
Paul Cerles
Denise DeTrano
Vanessa Guerrero
Mervin Tamai

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Nancy E. McFadden, Chair
Vicki Marti

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

Chantele Denny, Department of Finance
Benjamin Thomas, Department of Health Services

I. Call to Order

The open session meeting of the California Medical Assistance Commission (CMAC) on June 10, 2004 was called to order, in the absence of Chair Nancy E. McFadden, by Commissioner Thomas Calderon. A quorum was present.

II. Approval of Minutes

There were no meeting minutes for approval at this time.

III. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director, Keith Berger, indicated that there were no new requests from hospitals or health plans to appear before the Commission in closed session at this time.

Mr. Berger informed the Commission that there are six amendments for action in today's closed session. He further commented that after the 140 or so amendments that have been before the Commission in the past few months, the Commission will have only a short break before CMAC staff will have a significant number of managed care amendments before the Commission for action in the next few months.

The Executive Director took a moment to introduce and welcome CMAC's newest negotiation staff member, Paul Cerles. Mr. Cerles had been the Budget Officer at the Department of Food and Agriculture for the last few years but before that he worked for over 20 years in state health programs at the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) and at the Department of Health Services (DHS), including four years in the DHS Medi-Cal Managed Care Division.

Mr. Berger indicated that CMAC and DHS staff have been working closely with the hospitals and the State Controller's Office to finalize the SB 1255 amendments approved by the Commission. They have been working on getting the supplemental payments out to as many hospitals as possible by the end of this week. Mr. Berger indicated that he understands that even some of the hospitals whose amendments were approved at the May 27 meeting will receive their checks this week.

Mr. Berger thanked Mary Hughes and other DHS Medi-Cal Operations staff for their diligence and hard work on the SB 1255 amendments. He said that twice a year CMAC puts quite a load on DHS with the SB 1255 amendments, and he wanted the DHS staff to know that their hard work is appreciated.

Mr. Berger indicated that at the last meeting the Commission had a discussion with several hospital representatives from the Contra Costa County area regarding their concerns about access in HSPA 411. There were a number of questions raised during that discussion regarding such issues as contracted bed capacity, the patient transfer process, and travel time to and from contract hospitals. The Chair requested that CMAC staff investigate those issues and report their findings at the end of June.

Mr. Berger indicated that CMAC received a request from the HSPA 411 hospital representatives that, unless CMAC staff is ready to make a recommendation to the Commission by next Monday when the June 24 public meeting notice goes out, that the next public discussion on this issue be postponed until the first meeting in July.

Mr. Berger indicated that staff has not yet completed their HSPA 411 analyses and will not have it done by Monday. CMAC will move forward with its discussion with the HSPA 411

state hospital representatives, as well as with the contracting hospital representatives, and DHS field office staff in preparation for the July 8 meeting.

Commissioner Calderon commented that the CMAC staff has a lot of work on and that while it is important to resolve this issue, it should not interfere with the business of the Commission in getting its other work completed.

Mr. Berger stated that the staff will work resolve this issue as soon as possible within the context of the Commission priorities and workload.

In concluding his report, the Executive Director informed the Commission that CMAC office will be closed on Friday, June 11. The Governor issued a proclamation that state employees be given eight hours of informal time off on Friday in memory of former Governor and President, Ronald Reagan.

IV. Medi-Cal Managed Care Activities

The Executive Director indicated that he had nothing new to report today on managed care other than to say CMAC staff is making progress with DHS in a number of areas and will have quite a few amendments for action by the Commission in July and August.

V. New Business/Public Comments/Adjournment

There being no further new business and no additional comments from the public, Commissioner Calderon recessed the open session. Commissioner Calderon opened the closed session and, after closed session items were addressed, adjourned the closed session at which time the Commission reconvened in open session. Commissioner Calderon announced that the Commission had taken action on hospital contracts and managed care amendments in closed session.

At the request of the Commissioners, Benjamin Thomas, Department of Health Services, gave his report on Medi-Cal Redesign. He stated the redesign workgroups have completed their meetings and that DHS is now going through thousands of pages of recommendations and ideas. A number of cost saving ideas were proposed, especially in the finance workgroup, and saving money is something the state is interested in looking at. Mr. Thomas said staff is reviewing the information and will be developing recommendations. He said the timetable is still to have something to the Legislature by August 2.

Commissioner Schenk asked if the Executive Director had given some thought to the request made earlier regarding changing the number of CMAC meetings per month in the interest of saving money on hotels, flights and other expenses accrued by the Commissioners

during their travel. She also requested that staff look at what is involved in the Commission designating a Vice Chair that can step in when the Chair is absent.

Mr. Berger indicated that he had given some thought to Commissioner Schenk's request and indicated that with some of the amendments it is critical that they be approved as soon as possible and that waiting two more weeks could financially impact the state as well as the contracted providers. He said that CMAC has a number of managed care amendments coming up in July and the timing will have to be looked at for those before it can be determined if any changes can be made.

In response to Commissioner Schenk's second request, Denise DeTrano, CMAC General Counsel, indicated that it is not in the statutes but that she would look at the issues.

There being no further business, Commissioner Calderon adjourned the open session.